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Message Text

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50/21
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20 SAM-01 SAB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 OMB-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 TRSE-00 COME-00 EB-11 ABF-01 DRC-01

NEAE-00 /113 W
---------- 127702
O 010856Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO USDEL ALEXANDRIA
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6910
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 2318

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - ALEXANDRIA ADDED AS ACTION

ADDRESSEE.

CAIRO FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O.: 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XF, WN, SA
SUBJ: ARAB OIL STATES CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNRWA

REF : JIDDA 2302

1. IF THIS MATTER OF ARAB CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNRWA IS MATTER OF GREAT CONCERN TO US, I RECOMMEND THAT I BE INSTRUCTED TO TELL THE SAUDIS IMMEDIATELY SOMETHING ON THE FOLLOWING LINES:

(A) DEPT. OF STATE WAS SHOCKED BY THE PROPOSED SAUDI CONTRIBUTION OF ONLY $600,000 TO UNRWA. THE AMERICAN CONGRESS WILL BE BOTH SHOCKED AND ANGERED.
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(B) WE EXPECT THE ARABS TO PICK UP THE FULL $29 MILLION DEFICIT; WE WOULD HAVE BEEN PLEASED IF SAUDI ARABIA HAD MADE THE FULLY PAYMENT ITSELF.

(C) THERE IS NO RPT NO CHANCE THAT THE US WILL MAKE UP THE CURRENT DEFICIT; IF THE ARABS DO NOT STEP IN THERE WILL BE CURTAILMENT OF WORK (WOULD DRAW ON DETAILS DEPT'S 72509).

(D) IF THE ARABS FAIL TO INCREASE THEIR PAYMENTS FUTURE AMERICAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNRWA WILL SURELY BE QUESTIONED, ALMOST CERTAINLY WILL BE CUT AND POSSIBLY WILL BE ELIMINATED.

2. I ALREADY HAVE INFORMATION ON PAST US CONTRIBUTIONS, AND AM PREPARED TO FACE AND ANSWERE THE STANDARD ARAB POSITION THAT "THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM WAS CREATED BY YOU, THEREFORE YOU HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THE REFUGEES". I MIGHT HERE STATE THAT IRRESPECTIVE OF WHOM ARABS SAW AS ORIGINALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR PALESTINIAN REFUGEE PROBLEM, US PUBLIC AND CONGRESS CANNOT UNDERSTAND HOW ARAB REGIMES COULD STAND BY (FOR MORE THAN A GENERATION NOW) AS SPECTATORS OF THEIR FELLOW-COUNTRYMEN'S SUFFEREINGS. AMERICANS AWARE THAT WEST GERMANY (ALBEIT UNDER DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCES) RESPONDED MORE RAPIDLY AND POSITIVELY TO TRAUMA OF ITS BISECTION AND NEED TO ABSORB SOME 10-12 MILLION REFUGEES FROM EAST GERMANY AND OTHER EAST EUROPEAN NATIONS, AND THAT BOTH INDIA AND PAKISTAN ACCEPTED LARGE NUMBER OF REFUGEES AFTER PARTITION.

3. THERE HAS BEEN NO PROBLEM IN CONVINCING THE SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER OF THE NECESSITY OF INCREASING SAUDI CONTRIBUTIONS. THE KING'S ADVISORS (PARTICULARLY RASHAD PHARAON), ALSO SEEM TO AGREE THAT THIS SHOULD BE DONE. AND I AM SURE SENIOR PRINCES FAHD AND SULTAN WOULD CONCUR. BUT GIVEN THE KING'S CURRENT SOUR MOOD, HIS FEAR THAT THE DISENGAGEMENT TALKS WILL SHATTER ON ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE, ITS REFUSAL TO WITHDRAW FROM GOLAN AND ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE OF FURTHER WITHDRAWALS, I'M NOT SURE WHETHER THEY WILL BE ABLE TO CONVINCE THE KING TO INCREASE THESE PAYMENTS--OR EVEN IF ANY OF THEM WILL TRY
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VERY HARD. THE ONLY HOPE FOR QUICK ACTION WOULD LIE IN THE SHOCK CREATED BY AN AWARENESS OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE U.S. MIGHT WITHDRAW ITS OWN SUPPORT FOR UNRWA.

4. I WOULD WANT TO TAKE THIS POSITION WITH THE SAUDIS ONLY RPT ONLY IF (A) WE DO IN FACT ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE MATTER AND (B) WE WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE BLUFFING IN REGARD TO OUR OWN CONTRIBUTIONS.

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5. I EXPECT TO SEE FOREIGN MINISTER SAQQAF MAY 3. I WOULD
APPRECIATE A REPLY BY COB WASHINGTON MAY 2.
AKINS

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NNN

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